

Max Weinberg
Headlines
Apr. 21 "All-Star Jazz Blowout" Benefit Concert for
New Orleans Habitat Musicians' Village



Drummer **Max Weinberg**, Band Leader of NBC TV's "Late Night With Conan O'Brien," will headline the "**All-Star Jazz Blowout**" tribute to New Orleans on Saturday, Apr. 21 at 8 p.m. at Berklee Performance Center. The event kicks off Jazz Week in Boston, officially proclaimed by Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and presented and coordinated by the nonprofit organization **JazzBoston**.

Weinberg, former member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, will join trombonist and arranger **Phil Wilson**, who will direct the **Rainbow Band** with **Alisa Miles** and **Charles Lewis**, and faculty and student guests from **Berklee College of Music**, **New England Conservatory**, **Harvard University**, **MIT**, **Wellesley College**, **Longy School of Music** and **Brandeis University**.

Also on the bill: singer and New Orleans native **Henri Smith** with reedman **Nat Simpkins**, and the reunion after 12 years of **Your Neighborhood Saxophone Quartet** with **Allan Chase**, **Cercie Miller**, **Tom Hall** and **Joel Springer**.

The concert is a benefit for the **New Orleans Habitat Musicians' Village** and supports the "**Boston Women Build in the Bayou**" trip to New Orleans in May. The group of more than 30 women from Boston will travel to New Orleans to build a house in the Musicians' Village in the Upper 9th Ward for displaced New Orleans musicians and other qualifying Habitat partner families. The Village was conceived by Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford and Ellis Marsalis.

"Jazz musicians have a long tradition of assisting each other, going back to the social and benevolent societies of late 19th-century New Orleans," says trumpeter **Mark Harvey**, co-producer of the event with Berklee's **Rob Rose**. *"This benefit concert enables the Boston jazz community to reach out to its counterpart in the Crescent City, which is, after all, the birthplace of this wonderful music."*

"Through this Jazz Week benefit concert, JazzBoston is able to join forces with 'Boston Women Build in the Bayou' while bringing together our jazz community to extend a helping hand to musicians in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Such collaboration and outreach are major goals of JazzBoston."

Wilson will lead the Rainbow Band with special guest Weinberg and collegiate faculty and student all-stars in a number of songs associated with New Orleans, including music from Duke Ellington's "New Orleans Suite" and Louis Armstrong's classic "Struttin' With Some Barbecue."

"Considering the huge pool of talent in the metro area, Jazz Week is a natural," says Wilson. *"The All-Star Jazz Blowout is a great way to start the celebration of all of these wonderful musicians."*

Among the faculty who will be joining Wilson and Weinberg in the Rainbow Band for a big band salute to New Orleans are trombonist **Jay Keyser** of MIT and saxophonist **Allan Chase** of the New England Conservatory.

Students include pianist **Nate Ball**, MIT; tenor saxophonist **Laura Beckerman**, Wellesley College; trombonist **Jordan Jacobson**, Longy School of Music; and tenor saxophonist **Jake Cohen**, Harvard.

Jazz Week will be celebrated April 21 through April 29 with more than 150 events in over 50 venues throughout the Boston metro area. In addition to the artists appearing in the Apr. 21 "All-Star Jazz Blowout," featured performers during Jazz Week will be **Ellis Marsalis, Frank Morgan, Lyambiko, Ben Monder, Jerry Bergonzi, Yoron Israel**, the **Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, Grace Kelly, Avishai Cohen, Deborah Henson-Conant, James Merenda, Tiger Okoshi, Dominique Eade**, and **Charlie Kohlase**.

Also appearing: **Salim Washington, Marianne Solivan, Mehmet Sanlikol, Lisa Thorson, Kurtis Rivers, Marta Gomez, Ray Santisi, Patricia Zarate, Either/Orchestra, Tim Ray, George Garzone, Eric Hofbauer, Garrison Fewell, John Lockwood, Bob Brookmeyer, Luther Gray** and **The Fringe**.

For information and event updates go to www.jazzboston.org/jazzweek or call (888) 671-0993 (toll free).

The eight-day event will mark the first time since the much acclaimed Boston Jazz Weeks of the 1970s and early 1980s that such a diverse, community-wide jazz event will take place in the city that has given the world such musical giants as Roy Haynes, Chick Corea and Tony Williams.

Scheduled to tie into the **Smithsonian Institution's national observance of April as Jazz Month** and **culminate in a birthday tribute to Duke Ellington**, born on April 29, Jazz Week is being coordinated and promoted by JazzBoston but produced independently by participating musicians, presenters, clubs, educational institutions and other organizations.

JazzBoston gratefully acknowledges the strong support for Jazz Week received from the event's Primary Sponsor, **BostonNow**; Principal and Lead Sponsors, **Regattabar, Scullers Jazz Club**, the **CEO Roundtable**, and the **Boston Pops**; and Major Sponsors, **Bob's Southern Bistro** and the **Beehive**.

About Max Weinberg

"Late Night with Conan O'Brien" music director Max Weinberg has led The Max Weinberg 7 since the show's premier in 1993. The long-time drummer for Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band (1974-1989), Weinberg has performed or recorded with some of contemporary music's biggest names, including Sting, Paul McCartney, Peter Gabriel, Ringo Starr and Natalie Merchant. He has also been a guest artist with a variety of jazz groups and is the producer of the Rhino Records series "Max Weinberg: Let There Be Drums." At President Clinton's 1992 inaugural ball, Weinberg performed the instrumental "Night Train" with the newly-elected saxophonist/President.

Watch for updates on Jazz Week by visiting the JazzBoston website at www.jazzboston.org/jazzweek.

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JazzBoston is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to building and serving audiences for jazz music, expanding performance opportunities for jazz musicians, and raising Boston's profile as a jazz city — a city that is a magnet for fans and musicians from all over the United States and the world.

CONCERT INFO:

"All-Star Jazz Blowout: Benefit for New Orleans Habitat Musicians' Village"

Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston

8 PM

617/931-2000, 617/747-2261, www.ticketmaster.com

General admission: \$15, students & seniors \$10

